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1 breast cancer, colon cancer, gallbladder disease, arthritis and
2 type-2 diabetes; and

3 WHEREAS, overweight children have an increased risk for
4 contracting chronic diseases and conditions that are now
5 inundating health care providers in America; and

6 WHEREAS, a large percentage of young people are sedentary,
7 do not regularly engage in vigorous physical activity and spend
8 a large portion of their day in front of a computer or
9 television screen, and the daily participation in physical
10 education classes has dropped from forty-two percent in 1991 to
11 twenty-nine percent in 1999; and

12 WHEREAS, poor eating habits and a lack of regular physical
13 activity may lead to obesity, diabetes, cancer and
14 cardiovascular disease, as well as other health problems; and

15 WHEREAS, poor eating habits and a lack of physical
16 activity during youth will likely lead to poor health habits
17 during adulthood; and

18 WHEREAS, until recently, type-2 diabetes was known as
19 "adult-onset" diabetes because it developed almost exclusively
20 in adults older than fifty years of age; and

21 WHEREAS, twenty years ago, only two percent of type-2
22 diabetes cases were diagnosed in young people nine to nineteen
23 years of age; and

24 WHEREAS, now more than thirty percent of type-2 diabetes
25 cases are diagnosed in young people nine to nineteen years of

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1 age; and

2 WHEREAS, more than twenty-five percent of adults in New
3 Mexico are considered to be overweight or obese, having a body
4 mass index of twenty-five or greater; and

5 WHEREAS, when an overweight person achieves a ten-percent
6 weight loss, that loss will significantly reduce the person's
7 lifetime medical costs;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that there be assembled a task force of
10 responsible citizens to address the growing health problems of
11 young people, including obesity and diabetes, and to develop
12 proposed legislation with the specific purpose of raising
13 public awareness of and providing for public education about
14 these issues; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be comprised of
16 representatives from the state department of public education,
17 concerned business entities, school administrators and the
18 health industry; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
20 collaborate in a study of methods to increase the physical
21 activity and improve the eating habits of youth; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, through the
23 state department of public education, report to the legislative
24 education study committee on its findings and recommendations,
25 including those strategies that require legislative approval or

1 funding to implement, not later than November 1, 2003; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the director of the legislative education study
4 committee and the superintendent of public instruction.

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